COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
October 18, 2012

BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL: MARTINEZ FEEDER TRAIL #1 CONSTRUCTION AND SURVEYING

File No. 11-069-01
Project Manager: Melanie Denninger

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse up to $125,000 to the East Bay Regional Park District for construction of approximately 3 miles of a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail known as Martinez Feeder Trail #1, and surveying of an additional 0.7-mile segment of the same trail, west of the City of Martinez in unincorporated Contra Costa County.

LOCATION: West of the City of Martinez in unincorporated Contra Costa County

PROGRAM CATEGORY: San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: Project Location Maps

Exhibit 2: Site Map

Exhibit 3: Project Photographs

Exhibit 4: CEQA Documents

Exhibit 5: Project Letters

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31160-31165 of the Public Resources Code:

"The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of an amount not to exceed $125,000 (one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars) to the East Bay Regional Park District (the "Park District") for construction of approximately 3 miles of a segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail known as Martinez Feeder Trail #1, and surveying of an additional 0.7-mile segment of the same trail, west of the City of Martinez in unincorporated Contra Costa County, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of funds, the Park District shall submit the following for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy:

A. A detailed work program, budget, and schedule;

B. A plan for the installation of a sign acknowledging Conservancy participation and displaying the Conservancy logo; and

C. The names and qualifications of any contractors that it intends to employ.

2. The Park District shall ensure compliance with all project actions, components, and mitigation measures that are required by the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the East Bay Regional Park District Feeder Trail #1 Project certified by the Park District on September 18, 2012, and accompanying the project staff recommendation as Exhibit 4."

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

"Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
2. The proposed authorization is consistent with the purposes and objectives of Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the improvement of public access to, within, and around the bay, coast, ridgetops and urban open spaces of the San Francisco Bay area.
3. The Conservancy has independently reviewed the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the East Bay Regional Park District Feeder Trail #1 Project certified by the park District on September 18, 2012 pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, and finds no substantial evidence that the project, with the identified measures to avoid, reduce or mitigate the possible significant environmental effects, will have a significant effect on the environment."

PROJECT SUMMARY:

This authorization would provide up to $125,000 to the East Bay Regional Park District (the "Park District") to construct improvements on 3 miles of the segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail ("Ridge Trail") known as Martinez Feeder Trail #1 (the "Feeder Trail") and to complete a survey of property boundaries along a contiguous 0.7-mile segment of the same trail needed for future extension of the trail. The proposed project is part of the Ridge Trail system in rolling rangeland between Pinole and Martinez in Contra Costa County and is needed to make an existing deteriorated fire road safe and usable by the public and to provide access to the Ridge Trail from the vicinity of Martinez (Exhibits 1 and 2).

Trail construction will be undertaken by the Park District, with possible assistance from the either the California Conservation Corps or Civicorps, and includes activities such as grading at gully locations; replacing inadequate culverts and installing headwalls,

tailwalls and basins; installing articulated fords (interlocking concrete pavers); and stabilizing the trail with riprap. Surveying of property boundaries along the contiguous 0.7-mile proposed trail segment is necessary to enable future trail construction to link the Feeder Trail to access from Pereira Road and to the existing Ridge Trail in the East Bay Municipal Utility District's ("EBMUD's") Pinole Watershed (Exhibits 1 and 2). While the Park District holds title to the entire 3.7-mile trail, the actual location of its property interest along the 0.7-mile segment may not entirely correspond to the existing ranch road and needs to be established.

The Park District owns and operates an extensive system of regional parks in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. It has been the recipient of many previous Conservancy grants and has shown itself to be a very capable and effective grant manager.

Site Description: The Feeder Trail is located west of the City of Martinez and south of Highway 4 in unincorporated Contra Costa County (Exhibit 1). The trail right-of-way is owned by the Park District and is abutted by dedicated open space, a stable, and private ranchland. The open space includes the Gustin and Dutra Ranches, both acquired by the Muir Heritage Land Trust ("MHLT") with Conservancy assistance, and MHLT's Sky Ranch. The northeastern end of the Feeder Trail will be at a staging area on Dutra Road on the outskirts of the City of Martinez and the southwestern end will be at Pereira Road where the existing Ridge Trail enters EBMUD property and also crosses MHLT's Franklin Canyon and Fernandez Ranch properties, which were acquired with Conservancy assistance.

The Feeder Trail alignment mainly consists of a deteriorated fire road, with patches of weeds, annual grasslands, and a small amount of oak woodland on the perimeter. The surrounding area is characterized by rolling hills, ephemeral streams, mixed oak woodland, annual and perennial grassland, live oak/bay laurel woodland, and coastal scrub (Exhibit 3). The portion of the Feeder Trail closest to Pereira Road, where surveying will be done, also abuts an orchard.

Project History: The Feeder Trail, originally a stagecoach route dating back to the 1850s, was designated as a "feeder," or connector, to the California State Riding and Hiking Trail by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors in 1952, but was not maintained as such. Later, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council ("BARTC") identified the route of the Feeder Trail as the alignment of a segment of the Ridge Trail. In 2010, after years of negotiations, the Park District obtained title to the right-of-way from the County and, in cooperation with the BARTC, began designing the improvements needed to make the Feeder Trail safe and passable.

In 2011, the Park District and BARTC approached Conservancy staff with a request for funding assistance for the proposed project and for additional trail planning nearby. At the present time, staff is only recommending that the Conservancy provide funding for Feeder Trail construction and surveying. As the private owners of one property between the Feeder Trail and the existing Ridge Trail, which continues north into Solano County, are not amenable to having a trail cross their property, the Park District's request for Conservancy assistance instead proposes to connect the Feeder Trail to a trailhead on a public road (Exhibit 2).

The vision for the Ridge Trail is a continuous 500-mile multi-use (serving hikers, mountain bicyclists and equestrians) trail that rings San Francisco Bay high on its adjacent ridgelines. Under the leadership of the Conservancy and BARTC, and supported by a diverse group of project participants, the Ridge Trail creates an interconnected system of open space and trails that provides recreational opportunities and scenic views to the public. Begun almost 20 years ago, over 300 miles of trail are now dedicated and/or open to the public in all nine Bay Area counties. This authorization will further the Conservancy's statutory and strategic goals of improving access around San Francisco Bay, and is consistent with previous Conservancy authorizations to negotiate and acquire trail easements, prepare trail construction plans and designs, and construct and open trail segments to the public. Feeder Trail #1 will also improve access to the MHLT's Franklin Canyon, Fernandez Ranch, Sky Ranch, Dutra Ranch and Gustin properties, most of which were acquired with Conservancy assistance for purposes including public access.

PROJECT FINANCING:

Coastal Conservancy	$125,000
East Bay Regional Park District	25,900
Total Project Cost	**$150,900**

The anticipated source of Conservancy funds for this grant is the fiscal year 2010/11 appropriation to the Conservancy from the "Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006" (Proposition 84). Proposition 84 funds may be used for the purposes of promoting access to and enjoyment of the coastal resources of the state in accordance with the provisions of the Conservancy's enabling legislation. (Pub. Resources Code section 75060.) Consistent with the purposes of Proposition 84, the proposed project will be undertaken pursuant to the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program (Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code), as described below.

The Park District will contribute additional funds of $25,900 toward the project.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION:

Funding of the project is consistent with the Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, Chapter 4.5 of the Conservancy's enabling legislation, Public Resources Code sections 31160-31165, which addresses the resource and recreational goals of the nine Bay Area counties in a "coordinated, comprehensive, and effective way.".

Pursuant to Section 31162(a) of the Public Resources Code, the Conservancy may award grants in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area that will help to improve public access to, within, and around the ridgetops, consistent with the rights of private property owners, and without having a significant adverse impact on agricultural operations and environmentally sensitive areas and wildlife. Consistent with Section 31162(a), the proposed project is in Contra Costa County, one of the nine San Francisco

Bay Area counties; would improve public access to, within, and around the ridgetops between Sky Ranch and the Pinole Watershed; has been planned in consultation with the owners of surrounding private property, some of which is used for grazing cattle; has been designed to avoid or compensate for potential significant adverse impacts to environmentally sensitive areas; and is consistent with local planning efforts around the Ridge Trail.

Consistent with Section 31163(a), the Conservancy cooperates with nonprofit land trusts and other organizations in identifying and adopting long-term resource and outdoor recreational goals for the San Francisco Bay Area. Completion of the Ridge Trail is identified in (1) *The San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program Regional Needs Briefing Book (Bay Area Open Space Council, July 1999)* and (2) *400 Miles and Beyond: A Strategic Plan for Completing the Bay Area Ridge Trail (BARTC, 2006).*

The Feeder Trail project satisfies all of the five criteria for determining project priority under Section 31163(c), as follows: the project is supported by adopted regional plans including the Park District's 1996 Master Plan as updated in 2007, the Ridge Trail alignment that has been adopted by the BARTC, and the 2009 Contra Costa Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan; serves a regional constituency by creating additional trail length for the Ridge Trail; can be implemented in a timely manner; provides benefits that could be lost if the project is not quickly implemented, such as ongoing deterioration of the fire road; and includes matching funds from the Park District.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S 2007 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):

Consistent with **Goal 11, Objective F** of the Conservancy's 2007 Strategic Plan, the proposed project will result in completion of a trail right-of-way alignment survey needed for designing a 0.7-mile segment of the Ridge Trail.

Consistent with **Goal 11, Objective G** of the Conservancy's 2007 Strategic Plan, the proposed project will result in construction of a 3-mile segment of the Ridge Trail.

Consistent with **Goal 11, Objective I** of the Conservancy's 2007 Strategic Plan, the proposed project will result in construction of a link between the Ridge Trail and the City of Martinez.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:

The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines in the following respects:

Required Criteria

1. **Promotion of the Conservancy's statutory programs and purposes:** See the "Consistency with Conservancy's Enabling Legislation" section above.

2. **Consistency with purposes of the funding source:** See the "Project Financing" section above.
3. **Support of the public:** Public support of the proposed project is indicated by its inclusion in adopted regional plans such as the Park District's 1996 Master Plan as updated in 2007, the Ridge Trail alignment that has been adopted by the BARTC, and the 2009 Contra Costa Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. In addition, letters of support from Congressman George Miller, State Senator Mark DeSaulnier, the Muir Heritage Land Trust and BARTC, are attached as Exhibit 5.
4. **Location: The proposed** project is located in Contra Costa County, within the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program and will benefit the San Francisco Bay Region by adding 3 trail miles to the Ridge Trail system, providing a link between the Ridge Trail and an urban area, and completing the surveying component of the planning needed to further extend the Ridge Trail.
5. **Need: Wit**hout Conservancy funding, the Park District would defer construction and surveying for the proposed project. The Conservancy is ideally suited to provide funding in a timely manner to ensure completion of the project.
6. **Greater-than-local interest:** The Ridge Trail is a major regional attraction and amenity. When completed, it will offer spectacular views of the entire Bay Area and will link many urban areas, parklands, and preserves. Completion of the Ridge Trail is one of the goals identified in the Bay Area Open Space Council's *"Regional Needs Briefing Book."* The proposed project will result in improvements to the route of the Feeder Trail, making a trail connection between urban Martinez, Sky Ranch, and beyond, and completing the right-of-way survey needed to design the remaining Ridge Trail Connection between Martinez and the Pinole Watershed.
7. **Sea level rise vulnerability:** The project is located in an area that is not vulnerable to impacts due to anticipated rise in sea levels attributable to global climate change.

Additional Criteria

8. **Urgency:** Environmental review has been completed. If the project is delayed, site conditions could change and the design and environmental review process might have to be redone.

10. **Leverage:** See the "Project Financing" section above.

13. **Readiness:** This project is ready to proceed as soon as funding is secured.

14. **Realization of prior Conservancy goals:** See the "Project History" section above.

16. **Cooperation:** The project has been developed in cooperation among the park District, the BARTC, and surrounding landowners
17. **Minimization of greenhouse gas emissions:** See the "Compliance with CEQA" section below.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:

Construction of 3 miles of the Feeder Trail

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Park District, as lead agency, prepared the Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration to provide the public and responsible and trustee agencies with information on the potential effects of the trail construction portion of the proposed project, which it calls "East Bay Regional Park District Feeder Trail #1 Project." No comments were received during the 30-day public comment period. Following the close of the public comment period on August 31, 2012, the Park District prepared the Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration, adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration on September 18, 2012, and shortly thereafter filed a Notice of Determination (NOD). The Park District has also paid the filing fee required by the Department of Fish and Game pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 711.4(c). The NOD and Initial Study with mitigation measures are attached as Exhibit 4.

In its NOD, the Park District concluded that the project, as revised with the proposed mitigation measures, would not have significant impacts on the environment. The discussion that follows draws from the Park District's discussion of "potentially significant impacts" —to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hydrology and water quality, and noise—and identifies the mitigation measures that it proposes to reduce the potentially significant impacts to "less than significant with mitigation." The resolution that staff is recommending for Conservancy adoption includes a condition requiring the Park District to implement all of these mitigation measures. Staff will file a NOD upon approval of the project.

Air Quality

Potentially Significant Impacts:

During the construction phase, sources of air emissions and dust include activities such as excavation, grading, vehicle travel on unpaved surfaces, and vehicle and equipment exhaust. Sensitive receptors for these emissions and dust in the project area include residential and recreational users, although the Feeder Trail itself will be closed during construction. The proposed project meets the screening criteria of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) for construction air quality impacts and, provided that the following mitigation measures are implemented, construction air quality impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures:

To minimize dust associated with construction activities, the Park District and any contractor shall be required to employ the following Best Management Practices for managing dust:

AQ-1

- Regularly water access routes and construction areas using a water source which would either be self-propelled or attached to a vehicle;
- Excavate during calm periods;
- Cover all truck beds hauling soil, vegetation and other loose construction materials;
- Re-establish bare soils resulting from grading and staging activities [with the exception of the natural surface trail approaches] by applying stripping from the project site;
- Routinely cover, water or apply non-toxic soil binders to exposed stockpiled materials as appropriate;
- Maintain all equipment engines in good condition, in proper tune (per manufacturer's specifications), and in compliance with all State and Federal requirements;
- Limit traffic speed to 15 miles per hour; and suspend earth-moving activities if winds exceed 25 miles per hour and/or as directed by the Park District Inspector.

Biological Resources

Potentially Significant Impacts

Potentially significant construction impacts to plants and animals include removal of vegetation during breeding seasons for birds, removal of trees and snags during maternity roosting seasons for bats, disturbance of the Alameda whipsnake during spring and summer, and disturbance of non-breeding habitat for the red-legged frog. These potentially significant impacts to biological resources will be reduced to less-than-significant levels, provided that the following mitigation measures are implemented.

Mitigation Measures

BIO-1a

Impacts to Raptors: The following measure was designed to ensure that tree-nesting raptors (e.g., hawks, falcons, kites) are not disturbed during the breeding season.

- A qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for tree-nesting raptors in all trees occurring within 250 feet of the project route within 14 days of the onset of ground disturbance, if such disturbance will occur during the breeding season (February through August 31). I nesting raptors are detected on the site during the survey, a construction buffer of 250 feet shall be established around each active nest for the duration of the breeding season or until it has been confirmed that all young have fledged. A biological monitor shall monitor the site to ensure nesting raptors are not adversely affected by construction activities, and to determine when young are independent.

BIO-1b

Impacts to Other Nesting Birds: Harming or disrupting nesting migratory birds and/or their eggs or young is prohibited under state and federal law, and therefore, would be a potentially significant impact. The following measures are designed to ensure that nesting special status and common nesting birds are not disturbed during the breeding season.

To avoid impacting nesting birds (including California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Species of Special Consern), one of the following shall be implemented:

- Conduct grading and construction activities, including the removal of branch or snag removal, from September 1 through January 31, when birds are not likely to be nesting; OR
- Conduct pre-construction surveys for nesting birds if construction is to take place during the nesting season (February 1 through August 31). A qualified wildlife biologist shall conduct a pre-construction nest survey no more than 14 days prior to initiation of grading to provide confirmation of the presence or absence of active nests on or immediately adjacent to the project area. If active nests are encountered, species-specific measures shall be prepared by a qualified biologist and implemented to prevent abandonment of the active nest. At a minimum, grading in the vicinity of the nest shall be deferred until the young virds have fledged. A minimum exclusion buffer of 25 feet shall be maintained during construction, depending on the species and location. A qualified biologist shall serve as a construction monitor during those periods when construction activities occur near active nest areas to ensure that no inadvertent impacts on these nests occur.

BIO-2

Impacts to Bats: If construction occurs during the roosting season (April through August), then pre-construction surveys for bats in suitable roost trees shall take place. If special status bat species are detected during surveys, an appropriate treatment plan shall be employed including postponing removal of branches or snags until the end of the maternity roosting season or construction of species-appropriate roosting habitat in the vicinity of the project area.

BIO-3a

Impacts to Alameda Whipsnake: All Trail improvement and maintenance activities in the vicinity of suitable whipsnake habitat shall be conducted during the window established by the Army Corps of Engineers for routine maintenance activities, July through October. Prior to the start of construction, a pre-construction survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist in potential habitat areas. Suitable whipsnake habitat (coyote brush, sage scrub, and riparian scrub) shall be noted and flagged. Because work will be conducted during the active (dry) season for whipsnake, an on-site biological monitor shall be present during activities within 100 feet of

chaparral and scrub habitat to reduce potential for harassment, injury or death of whipsnakes.

BIO-3b

Prior to initiation of construction activities, a qualified biologist shall train all site workers to ensure that all construction personnel, contractors and operators are aware of the potential presence of the whipsnake, recognize the ramifications of the taking of a listed species and receive training related to the whipsnake, including identification and protection measures, and requirements for responding to and reporting sightings.

BIO-3c

Pre-construction surveys to excavate and collapse any burrows or other retreats shall be conducted within one week of any construction activities involving vegetation removal near whipsnake habitat to prevent re-entry. Following pre-construction surveys, vegetation shall be removed by hand in the area to be graded with a biological monitor present. Three feet of silt fencing above the ground and at least six inches of fence trenched into the ground shall be required around staging and stockpiling areas to prevent incidental take of snakes that may enter the site during non-working hours.

BIO-3d

A qualified biologist shall be on-site throughout grading whenever work is being conducted within 100 feet of any suitable whipsnake habitat. The biologist shall be empowered to halt and suspend construction activities which could directly threaten the welfare of any whipsnake. If any whipsnakes are observed, work in the area shall be halted immediately until the snake leaves the area. If the whipsnake has moved and the biologist confirms that it is no longer in the vicinity of the work area, construction may resume. The whipsnake shall not be collected or moved by the field biologist, unless it in in imminent danger of being killed. If a whipsnake must be moved to avoid injuring or killing it, the whipsnake shall be re-located to suitable habitat a minimum of 0.5 mile from the point of capture. The biologist shall continue to search the exclusion area after construction has halted and check the exclusion fence to ensure the snake has left the area. The observation of any live or dead whipsnake within the construction area shall be reported within 24 hours to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or CDFG. Written records of all biological monitoring activities shall be kept in a daily log at the project site.

BIO-3e

To protect whipsnake and other wildlife from disturbance and human-induced predation during construction, dogs and/or other pets shall not be allowed on construction sites; and contractors and their employees shall not be allowed to bring pets onto the project site, including dogs kept either inside or outside of employee vehicles.

BIO-f

To minimize contamination and artificial increase of predators (i.e., raccoons) on construction sites and adjacent protected habitats, all food-related trash materials, e.g., leftovers, wrappers, and containers, shall be removed from the construction site daily.

BIO-3g

To minimize wildlife and habitat disturbance, all equipment and vehicle movement shall be confined to designated construction and staging areas and connecting roadways.

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Potentially Significant Impacts

The construction phase of the project includes grading and slope stabilization using mechanized equipment. Sources of construction-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions include exhaust, for which the same detailed guidance as described above for criteria air pollutants and precursors shall be followed. The BAAQMD CEQA Guidelines do not include screening criteria or thresholds of significance for construction-related GHG emissions. However, implementation of Mitigation Measure AQ-1 would ensure that construction-related GHG emissions would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

See Mitigation measure AQ-1.

Cultural Resources

Potentially Significant Impacts

The project area is not known to contain archaeological resources, but it has a long history of human use, and has not undergone an exhaustive archaeological survey, so it is possible that such resources could exist along the trail. Therefore, the proposed project could result in potentially significant impacts to unknown cultural resources. However, implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measures

CULT-1

If potentially significant cultural resources or human remains are encountered during project excavation or construction, all activity in the vicinity of the suspect resources or remains shall be immediately suspended and the Park District and a qualified archaeologist shall be contacted to evaluate the situation. Project personnel shall not alter any of the uncovered materials or their context. The Park District, in consultation with a qualified archaeologist, in the case of cultural resources, shall

complete a resource inventory, declaration, and mitigation plan prior to the continuation of any on-site grading or construction activity. Any previously undiscovered resources found during construction shall be recorded. Significant cultural resources consist of, but are not limited to, stone, bone, wood, and shell artifacts; fossils; and features including structural remains, stagecoach artifacts, and historic dumpsites. In the case of human remains, work shall cease until the county coroner makes a report. The county coroner is required to contact the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours if the coroner determines the remains to be Native American.

Geology/Soils

Potentially Significant Impacts

A significant impact to soils if a project exposes large areas to the erosional effects of wind or water for a protracted period of time. The soils underlying the project site are classified as presenting slight to no hazard. Project construction activities, such as grading, may increase the potential for erosion to occur at the project site. The potentially significant impacts would be reduced by the implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). With the implementation of Mitigation Measure HYD-1, impacts associated with the proposed project would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

See Mitigation Measure HYD-1.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Potentially Significant Impacts

The proposed project includes the construction of storm water drainage infrastructure (culverts) which have been sized to accommodate estimated storm water flows. This runoff would flow generally northwestward through the culverts and ultimately drain to Rodeo Creek, which drains into San Pablo Bay. The project will not include any impervious area and is not anticipated to result in additional runoff during storm events. Operation of the project would not violate any water quality standards or significantly degrade any water body. However, during project construction, soil disturbances at the project site may impact water quality of storm water runoff. These potential impacts would be reduced by the implementation of a SWPPP. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure HYD-1, impacts associated with the proposed project would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

HYD-1

The Park District shall prepare a SSPPP which shall be implemented during construction and the following Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be

includedin the SWPPP to ensure that water quality of surface runoff is maintained and no siltation of downstream waterways occurs:

- To the extent possible, project grading shall take place in the dry season between July 1 and October 31 to minimize immediate erosion/siltation.
- Construction materials and waste shall be handled and disposed of properly in compliance with applicable law to prevent contact with storm water.
- Discharge of all potential pollutants, including petroleum products, chemicals, wash water or sediments, and non-storm water discharges to storm drains and watercourses shall be controlled and prevented.
- Sediment controls such as straw mulch, silt fences, sediment basins or traps and/or other measures shall be employed during construction.
- Tracking dirt or other materials off-site shall be avoided and off-site paved areas shall be cleaned regularly using dry sweeping methods.
- The Park District shall train and provide instruction to all employees and subcontractors regarding construction BMPs.

Noise

Potentially Significant Impacts

A Significant impact may occur if the proposed project would generate excess noise that would cause the ambient noise environment at the project site to exceed noise levels in excess of local standards. Contra Costa County does not have a noise ordinance. The construction activities associated with the project may involve the use of heavy equipment such as tractors, loaders, and graders. Trucks would be used to deliver equipment and materials and to haul away waste materials. This equipment would generate temporary steady-state and episodic noise that would be heard both on and off the project site.

The noisiest pieces of construction equipment, jack hammers and pavers, would not be used on the project. As with all construction equipment, noise levels would diminish rapidly with distance from the construction site. There are few residences located adjacent to the project route; along the majority of the route, adjacent property is open space or ranch land. However, residents near the Dutra Road terminus of the project could experience temporary, periodic, noticeable increases in noise levels during the project's construction period, even with implementation of the noise control measures. Therefore, project impacts related to temporary noise increases associated with project construction would be potentially significant, but adherence to the following mitigation measures to require compliance with local ordinances addressing construction hours and practices would reduce potential noise impact during project construction and operation to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measures

NOISE-1

In addition to compliance with existing local, State and federal regulations, the following measures shall be required for construction associated with the project:

- Construction activity shall be limited to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and to Monday through Saturday.
- All construction vehicle and equipment shall be fitted with working mufflers.
- All stationary noise-generating equipment, such as compressors, should be located as far as possible from existing houses.
- Machinery, including motors, shall be turned off when not in use.
- Mobile equipment shall not run idle near existing residences.

Surveying 0.7 Miles of Possible Future Feeder Trail

The surveying portion of the proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA under section 15306 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations for information collection because it involves only basic data collection and research activities which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource, (14 California Code of Regulations Section 15306). Staff will file a CEQA Notice of Exemption upon Conservancy approval of the project.